

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITS GDR

1. EAST GERMAN PRESS REPORTED THAT AT CONCLUSION OF THREE-DAY VISIT TO GDR BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM, DR. JOSE VERA JERDIM, TWO COUNTRIES ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOVEMBER 14 CALLING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ALL AREAS, WITH EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC TIES. DR. JERDIM'S DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS GDR COUNTERPART, DR. GERHARD BEIL, ON MATTERS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTEREST APPARENTLY WERE BROADENED TO INCLUDE POLITICAL TOPICS BY PARTICIPATION OF GDR PARTY (SED) AND FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES. BASED ON PRESS ACCOUNTS, POLITICAL TALKS FOCUSED CHIEFLY ON EARLY COMPLETION OF CSCE.

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2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATED FURTHER THAT BOTH SIDES INTEND TO DEVELOP THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND MUTUAL SELF-INTEREST, AND IN A MANNER THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING OF PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED BY ANNOUNCING THAT PARTIES PLANNED TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS AND TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL TREATY.

3. COMMENT PORTUGUESE DELEGATION'S VISIT WOULD SEEM TO BE FIRST TANGIBLE POLITICAL RESULT OF GDR-GOP DECISION LAST SUMMER TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SINCE THAT TIME GDR PRESS, WHICH NOW HAS RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT IN LISBON, HAS FOLLOWED PORTUGUESE SCENE CLOSELY MONITORING WHAT IT TERMS AS POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN THAT COUNTRY "FROM FASCISM TO DEMOCRACY." ALTHOUGH JERDIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE FIRST OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE QUESTS IN GDR, PRESS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS HAS HIGHLIGHTED VISITS TO GDR OF SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL PORTUGUESE ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING TWO STUDENT GROUPS (ONE COMMUNIST) AND A UNION GROUP.

4. DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1975.SELIGMANN

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